

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 12, 2014 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

PITA BAKING this Thursday, October 16th at 9:00 am. We need to build the inventory for the coming holidays. Everyone's help is welcome. Questions? Please see **Chris Toda**. No experience necessary!

PARISH LUNCHEON AND "CAKE BUFFET" NEXT Sunday, October 19th following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall. Cost is \$20 per adults; \$5.00 per children. A roast chicken dinner will be served family style. Homemade baked macaroni and cheese for the children. In addition, we are inviting the bakers of our parish (or those of us who know a great bakery) to bring in a cake for our Cake Buffet to share for dessert. But, for FUN, before we cut in to them, we will have a "Cake Off" with a distinguished panel of judges (YOU) — voting on the decoration/appearance of the cakes — with different categories ("Most Colorful"; "Most Original"; "Most Likely to be Eaten in the Dark", etc.). So, get your creative juices going, grab the kids, grandkids, pets, and have some fun with this. There will be a sign up sheet at the candle stand for luncheon reservations and to bring a Cake! If you would be interested in sponsoring or donating to **underwrite the cost of the luncheon, please contact Deb Sedares**. All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit St. Nicholas Church. *Happy baking (or*

**GREETERS TEAM 2:
MARY ANNA DYMEK &
MARGARITE LANDRY**

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 2:16-20 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 8:5-15

(THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED)

Ⲑ TONE 1 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 7

shopping)!

HELP IS NEEDED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARISH LUNCHEON: Friday evening October 17th at 6:00 pm to setup the hall (tables and chairs, place settings); **Saturday morning, 9am to 12:00 noon** for food preparation; and on **Sunday morning** with serving the meal. As always, it's "all hands on deck" for cleanup following the luncheon. A volunteer sheet is posted on the Stewardship Board or you can **talk to or e-mail Deb Sedares**. *Many hands make light work!*

THE MUSTARD SEED MEAL is **THIS Friday, October 17th**. The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **Help is needed Friday at 12:00 noon** to cook and prepare food, and **at 5:00 on Friday evening** to transport and serve. There is a sign-up sheet on the Stewardship Board in the Hall or contact **Deb**

Sedares if you can help with preparing the meal. Contact **Fr. Nick** if you have any questions.

THE FALL SEMESTER of Religious Education Classes for children has begun. As a reminder, quiet space to hold Religious Ed classes is limited. It takes very little to disrupt a class of children from lessons their teachers have prepared. **We ask for your cooperation during the time after communion, and during the sermon and coffee-hour.** Please remain in the Church and do not disrupt classes by walking in the coffee hour area, hallway or going to the kitchen.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, Oct 16 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
 Fri, Oct 17 Mustard Seed 5pm-6:30pm
 Sun, Oct 19 Parish Luncheon & Cake-off
 Sat, Oct 25 Bible Study w/ Fr. Paul Tarazi, 9am-3pm
 Sat, Nov 1 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
 Sat, Nov 22 Thanksgiving Bake Sale/Holiday Mktpls

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850

E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

How often, indeed, does our tongue lead us into sin, O God! For one thing, we talk too much — too much of it needless, empty talk. In so doing we lose the ability to control ourselves, for we must have the last word in every instance. Besides this, we fail to put out the smouldering embers of anger, grudge-bearing, and simple mindlessness that threaten to burst into offensive, stinging words and attitudes. Help us to learn some self-control, to think before we speak, and to reflect on our appearance before your throne. Our hope lies in you alone.

For yours is dominion, and your is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED

for the coming weeks. Please talk to Presvytera Maria.

TODAY'S COFFEE is sponsored by the **Opio family**.

UPCOMING

A BIBLE STUDY LECTURE sponsored by the Eastern Orthodox Council and hosted by St. Mary's, will feature **Fr. Paul Tarazi**, retired Professor of Old Testament at St. Vladimir's who will speak on **St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians**. The lectures are open to the public and will start at 9:00 am on **Saturday, October 25**, ending at 5:00 pm. Registration fee is \$20.00 which includes lunch and all coffee breaks. All students are free. A flier with all the details is available at the candles. **Information:**

smc.worc@gmail.com.

E-RECYCLING, Saturday, November 1st from 9:00am to 2:00pm. A few folks are needed to help set up traffic cones and direct folks who are dropping off items. Please let **Gerry Belba** know how you can help. (Even for just an hour or two at either end!)

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center & Holy Trinity Hospice are Orthodox Charities and rely on your donations to continue the mission of providing the best care possible.

OUR TIME AND GOD'S TIME

Time is a precious thing. Unlike anything else in our lives we cannot make more of it, no matter how hard we try. God gives us the gift of the Liturgy as a small window into His eternity. We might chuckle a little when we think about how it is that we schedule an event that is "outside of time," at a very specific time. Nevertheless, for our parish the Liturgy normally begins, every Sunday, at 10:00 am. And we normally conclude our celebration by 11:30 am.

Some of us, perhaps remembering the long services of our youth, have adopted the very bad habit of coming into Liturgy late; some later than others. However, at St. Nicholas we keep a rather punctual schedule. You can expect (give or take 5 minutes):

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Begins
10:20 a.m. Epistle/Gospel Lessons
10:40 a.m. Great Entrance
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
11:30 a.m. Dismissal



NAMEDAYS

October 18

The Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke

Fr. Luke Veronis

October 20

The Great-martyr Artemius of Antioch

Artemie Gavala

Artemis Gouvelis

October 26

The Holy Great-martyr Dimitrios of Thessalonika

Dimitri Soterios Apostola

Dhimitra Belica

Dimitri Daniel Christo

James L. Christo

James Demake

Dhimitri Disho

Dimitraq Lolo

Dimitraqi Lolo

Dimitri Michael Saffron

James Seferi

James Evan Stamoulis

James Trakadas

James Vlamis

HOW FERTILE IS YOUR HEART?

THE Lord oftentimes uses the art of story-telling in the form of parables to convey a greater truth to His listeners. Probably more than any other literary device the parable is able to help its hearers understand and retain a deep message. It paints a mental picture for us so that the words are then recalled and reinforced by the image. Jesus, in particular, often tells a story taken from examples out of everyday life, and then gives them new meaning. The advantage of a parable is that long after we've forgotten the words, the image painted in our minds remains for deeper reflection.

The Gospel lesson this week is such a parable. It is the story of a farmer sowing seeds in his field (Luke 8:5-15). While this sort of scene is not so much a common part of our experience today, for the people who were listening to Jesus it was a part of everyday life and essential for their survival. They themselves had either sown a field, or they would have seen it being done hundreds of times. They didn't need too many details.

There are three important "players" in this parable: the Sower, the Seed, and the Place where the seed lands. The Sower throws his seed carefully — he's not going to squander it — but he's generous as well. He doesn't discriminate; he wants as much of his field as possible to produce a bountiful crop.

Certainly the quality of the seed matters. The Sower picks and prepares the best seed, but this is not a precise art. If in this parable the seed is likened to the Word of God, the Preacher recognizes how important it is to preach the Word well. But, in spite of the Sower's best efforts the Seed will often land where it wills. Neither the Sower's skill nor the Seed's quality are the determin-



ing factors. Where the seed lands is probably the most critical piece, as anyone who's tried to seed a new lawn knows.

The Lord gives us these very real examples. He said that some seed fell on a trodden path and were eaten by birds; some fell on rocky soil and withered for lack of water; some fell among thorns and weeds and were choked out; and some fell on good soil where they produced abundantly (v. 5-8).

Fortunately we have the advantage of not only having heard the parable before, but also of having had it explained to us. However, the Lord's disciples were a little at a loss, so he provided them with a clear explanation of the parable. He said: "The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they

go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance." (v. 11-15).

The Lord is talking about "receptivity;" our willingness to really listen to what God is saying to us, and to put the 'seed' deep within our hearts so that it may take root and grow. This kind of receptivity is what leads to change in a person's heart.

Look again at the story. The Sower is throwing the seed generously and even somewhat indiscriminately. God is constantly trying to reach us. He speaks to everyone. He doesn't play favorites. If a person doesn't read the Scriptures, all that he or she would have to do is to look up in the sky and behold the wonder of the universe. Or, gaze at the smallest creature and marvel at its beauty.

And, lest anyone think that by giving examples of rocky ground or weeds and thorns the Lord is saying that certain people are incapable of hearing and keeping the Word, ask any farmer or gardener what they do to enhance and maintain the fertility of their soil. Do we not also need to be constantly cultivating and fertilizing the soil of our hearts? Shouldn't we remove the rocks and thorns from our hearts?

The Lord wants us to properly prepare the soil of our hearts — the receptivity of our souls — so that He might find a place for His Word to grow. Let us open our hearts to God's Word. Let it take root in us and bear fruit a hundred-fold.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



*HOLIDAY BAKE SALE,
LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE*
Saturday, November 22
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church during the day on Friday, Nov. 21
- **We also need volunteers to help with set up and packaging of items for sale on Friday, Nov 21** and with the sale and luncheon on Saturday, Nov 22. If you have questions please speak to or email: Chris Toda or Deb Sedares.
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** of pitas and pastries here at the Church and for help with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda and Betty Anderson.**
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pits** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson.**
- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by November 9, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 22 & 23.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by December 7, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 20 & 21. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To

ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***

- **You may download flyers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We are seeking Vendors to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact **Tim Rucho.** We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services.

PAPOU'S ATTIC:

- As part of the Holiday Marketplace and Bake Sale on November 22nd, we will sell unique "antique shop" type items for the benefit of the Church. **We are seeking donations of new and gently used giftware, knick-knacks, and ornaments.** (To be clear, we are **NOT** looking for the usual "yard-sale" fare, but specialty items.) All things must be dropped off at the Church no later than Sunday, November 16th. For more information, contact Tim Rucho.